

**§251.4 Geological and geophysical activities requiring notices or permits.****§251.4-1 Geological and geophysical exploration for mineral resources.**

Geological or geophysical exploration for mineral resources may not be conducted on the OCS without an approved permit unless such activities are being conducted pursuant to a lease issued or maintained under the Act. Separate permits must be obtained for geological exploration for mineral resources and for geophysical exploration for mineral resources. If the Director disapproves an application, the statement of rejection shall state the reasons for the denial, and shall advise the applicant of those changes needed to obtain approval.

**§251.4-2 Geological or geophysical scientific research.**

Geological or geophysical scientific research may not be conducted by any person on the OCS without an approved permit or filing of a notice unless such activities are being conducted pursuant to a lease issued or maintained under the Act.

(a) Separate permits must be obtained for geological scientific research and for geophysical scientific research which involves the use of solid or liquid explosives or the drilling of a deep stratigraphic test. If the Director disapproves an application, the statement of rejection shall state the reasons for the denial, and shall advise the applicant of the changes needed to obtain approval.

(b) A notice must be filed with the Director at least 30 days prior to the commencement of scientific research activities which involve shallow test drilling. Within 21 days of the filing of the notice, the Director may disapprove the notice by sending a statement of disapproval by certified mail to the person who filed the notice. If the Director disapproves the notice, the statement shall state the reasons for disapproval and shall advise the applicant of recommended changes.

**§251.5 Applying for notices or permits.****§251.5-1 Permit forms.**

(a) An application for a permit shall be submitted in a form and manner prescribed and approved by the Director. Each application for a permit shall include:

(1) The name of any person who will conduct the proposed exploration or research activity;

(2) The name of any person who will participate in the proposed exploration or research activity;

(3) The type of exploration or research activity and the manner in which the activity will be conducted;

(4) The location on the OCS where the exploration or research activity will be conducted;

(5) The purpose for conducting the exploration or research activity;

(6) The dates on which the exploration or research activity is proposed to be commenced and completed; and,

(7) Such other relevant information and data as the Director may require.

[45 FR 6344, Jan. 25, 1980, as amended at 53 FR 24688, June 30, 1988]

**§251.5-2 Notices.**

A notice shall not be on a standardized form, but shall be signed and shall state:

(a) The name of the person conducting or participating in the proposed research;

(b) The type of research and manner in which it will be conducted;

(c) The location, designated on a map, plat, or chart, where the research will be conducted;

(d) The dates, which shall designate a period of not more than 1 year, on which the research activity is proposed to be commenced and completed;

(e) The proposed time and manner in which the information and data resulting from the research will be made available to the public for inspection and reproduction, such time being the earliest practicable time;

(f) An agreement that the information and data resulting from the research will not be sold or withheld for exclusive use; and

(g) The name, registry number, registered owner, and port of registry of vessels used in the operation.

**§251.5-3 Filing locations for permits to conduct exploration for mineral resources.**

Each application for a permit to conduct geological or geophysical exploration for mineral resources in the OCS shall be filed, in duplicate, at the following locations:

(a) For the OCS off the Atlantic Coast—the Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation, Atlantic OCS Region, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 22070—4817.

(b) For the OCS in the Gulf of Mexico—the Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana 70123.

(c) For the OCS off the coast of the States of California, Oregon, or Washington—the Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation, Minerals Management Service, Pacific OCS Region, 1340 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California 90017.

(d) For the OCS off the State of Alaska—the Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation, Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

[53 FR 4392, Feb. 16, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 50617, Dec. 8, 1989]

**§251.5-4 Filing locations for notices or permits to conduct scientific research.**

Each notice or application for a permit to conduct geological or geophysical scientific research on the OCS shall be filed, in duplicate, at the locations indicated in §251.5-3 of this part.

**§251.6 Test drilling activities.**

**§251.6-1 Permit or notice requirements for shallow test drilling.**

The Director, prior to the commencement of shallow test drilling for exploration for mineral resources or for scientific research, may require for permits or recommend for notices the gathering and submission of geo-

physical information and data sufficient to determine shallow structural detail across and in the vicinity of the proposed test. Other information and data may include, but is not limited to, seismic, bathymetric, side-scan sonar, and magnetometer systems, across and in the vicinity of the proposed test. When required, §§251.6-2 (c)(1) and (e) and 251.6-3 will apply to permits issued and notices filed for shallow test drilling.

**§251.6-2 Permit requirements for a deep stratigraphic test.**

(a) No deep stratigraphic test drilling activities shall be initiated or conducted until a Drilling Plan has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Director. The Drilling Plan shall include:

(1) The proposed type and sequence of drilling activities to be undertaken together with a timetable for their performance from commencement to completion;

(2) A description of the drilling rig proposed for use, unless a description has been previously submitted to the Director, indicating the important features thereof, with special attention to safety features and pollution prevention and control features, including oil spill containment and cleanup plans and onshore disposal procedures;

(3) The location of each deep stratigraphic test to be conducted, including the surface and projected bottomhole location of the borehole;

(4) The types of geophysical instrumentation to be used;

(5) Geophysical information and data sufficient to evaluate seafloor characteristics, shallow geologic hazards, and structural detail across and in the vicinity of the proposed test to the total depth of the proposed test well. Data and information from side-scan sonar and magnetometer surveys shall be submitted as required, at the option of the Director; and

(6) Such other relevant information and data as the Director may require.

(b) At the same time the applicant submits a Drilling Plan to the Director, an Environmental Report shall be submitted. The report shall be in summary form and should include information available at the time the related